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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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㉓ Immunoassay apparatus and method.

㉔ Fluorescent immunoassay apparatus and method employing a disposable consisting, in a preferred embodiment, of a short length of precise diameter capillary tubing having an axially disposed optical fiber to which is immobilized a monolayer of a component of the antibody-antigen complex (e.g., an antibody), an inert diluent, and a preload of a known amount of tagged complement to the immobilized component (e.g., a fluorescent-tagged antigen). The dimensions of the fiber and the capillary tubing are chosen so as to allow the tube to fill itself by capillary action once an end of the tube is immersed into the sample. Precise timing and ballistic measurements may, if desired, be avoided by insuring the incubation time is longer than the diffusion time necessary to scavenge the volume between the fiber and the capillary tubing. Fluorometric measurement is made by total reflection fluorescence techniques.

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